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Abstract

This final report of the Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Arkansas summarizes activities during the period June 24, 1966 through August 31, 1969. The major functions of coordination, stimulation, and dissemination of research related to vocational education are discussed under the following topical headings: summary, introduction, methods, significant findings and dissemination activities, and future activities planned. The organizational structure, a summary of professional staff, and significant research-related activities are appended. (CH)

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FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6-2732
Contract No. OEG4-6-062732-2136

RESEARCH COORDINATION UNIT FOR OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

September 18, 1969

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

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RESEARCH COORDINATION UNIT FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Project No. 6-2732
Contract No. OEG4-6-062732-2136

Date of Submission:
September 18, 1969

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Department of Vocational Education
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Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

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STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
in cooperation with the
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

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SUMMARY

The Research Coordination Unit for Vocational Education in the State of Arkansas came into being through the provisions of Section 4 (c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963. A proposal was submitted to the Project Officer of Research Coordination Units, Division of Adult and Vocational Research, United States Office of Education, April 21, 1966, for the establishment of such a unit.

The Research Coordination Unit began officially June 24, 1966, and continued operation under a contract plus a contract extension to August 31, 1969. It is located in the Department of Vocational Education, University of Arkansas.

The general objectives of the Unit were stimulation, coordination, and dissemination of research in vocational and technical education in the State.

Major activities were concerned with stimulating occupational education projects within local schools and districts, State Universities, and the Center for Occupational Education, North Carolina State University.

The coordination of occupational research was affected through participation in pertinent conferences, meetings and seminars involving vocational educators and personal contacts with the existent research leadership and other individuals and groups.

Dissemination of research and research related information was developed through use of newsbulletins, and quarterly reports. The purpose of dissemination and the development of a research consciousness among associates in vocational education were furthered by means of seminars and correspondence. A resource library of research findings in occupational education has been established, which includes both original hard copy materials and microfiche. The microfiche are obtained from the Educational Research Information Center (ERIC).

The staff of the RCU participated in a number of State and National Conferences in both vocational education and educational research. The benefits gained were disseminated through in-service educational conferences.

The in-service training phases of the program included workshops and meetings conducted by the Unit to upgrade vocational education personnel in educational research. Some in-service education was provided different individuals, as staff members aided them in designing research projects.

Several surveys and projects were completed or commenced operation during the report period.

The Unit has established lines of communication and has disseminated research information from the federal level through the state to the local school level.

INTRODUCTION

This is a final report for the project "A Proposal for the Establishment of a Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Arkansas." Contract No. OEG 4-6-062732-2136. The project was funded under Section 4 (c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963. The project began on June 24, 1966 and ended on August 31, 1969.

The major functions of the Research Coordination Units are these of coordination, stimulation, and dissemination of research related to vocational education.

After the Unit was in operation, the objectives were analyzed to determine which should be given top priority during the time of operation. As a result of the analysis, major emphasis was placed on the following activities to accomplish the objectives:

1. Identify issues and priorities of problems in vocational education needing research.

2. Establish liaison with State Agencies and other interested in research in vocational education.

3. Sponsor, coordinate and encourage in-service training in research methods and design for those interested in research related to vocational education.

4. Work with institutions of higher education in initiating and conducting research related to vocational education.

5. Encourage vocational, technical and adult education districts to design and conduct research projects.

6. Improve research capabilities of RCU staff to provide better consultative services to vocational, technical and adult schools or other groups conducting research in vocational education.

7. Locate completed research related to vocational education and initiate a library of research, labor market, and curriculum materials.

8. Disseminate findings of research in vocational education.

9. Aid vocational, technical and adult school districts and other institutions in securing funds to conduct research in vocational education.

This final report describes the activities performed, the methods used, results and findings obtained and the conclusions developed from the project operations.

METHODS

The Research Coordination Unit is located in the Department of Vocational Education at the University of Arkansas. The Unit is directly responsible to the Administrator of the State Division of Vocational Technical and Adult Education. (Refer to Appendix "A" for the new organizational structure).

At full strength, the Research Coordination Unit includes the director, associate director, four research assistants, a secretary, and a part-time clerk-typist (See Appendix "B"). The director works with other agencies and institutions in coordinating educational and occupational research. One of the director's prime responsibilities is consultative services in developing proposals. The associate director has the prime responsibility of disseminating information. The research assistants summarize research studies, assist in gathering and disseminating research information.

The professional staff worked together in affecting the major objectives of the Unit (See Appendix "C" for a list of activities performed). The staff members worked directly with the State Colleges, University of Arkansas, area and local vocational, technical and adult districts and schools, Arkansas Employment Security Division, the Wisconsin and North Carolina Centers for Studies in Vocational and Technical Education, Arkansas Industrial Research and Extension Center and the Southwide Research Coordinating Council in Occupational Education in Atlanta, Georgia.

These working relationships resulted in development of several research proposals, position papers, planning, guidelines, curriculum guides, and reports in vocational and technical education.

Professional staff serve on several inter-agency liaison planning and research committees.

The majority of research projects were financed from U. S. Office of Education or State funds.

Professional staff attended several national research seminars, conferences, and pre-session research training sessions at AVA and AERA. They are members of State and National research associations including AVERA, AERA, and ERA.

The Research Coordination Unit conducted several in-service workshops, conferences, seminars and meetings.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The Arkansas RCU has completed several research and development projects during this reporting period. A list of major findings and dissemination activities may be found in Appendix "C" of this report.

Dissemination of occupational education information has been a major function of the Arkansas RCU. A great deal of effort was expended in acquiring and disseminating documents. Considerable time and funds were spent by the RCU staff in the development of vocational and technical education publications in Arkansas. Most of the vocational-technical publications produced in Arkansas have been placed and are being placed into the ERIC system.

Communications are continually being established and reinforced with educators, governmental agencies, employers and other interested persons. Considerable correspondence takes place in response to requests for occupational education information.

Copies of this report are being sent to:

1. Project Officer, Organization and Administration Studies Branch, Division of Comprehensive and Vocational Education Research, U.S.O.E.
2. Directors of all Research Coordinating Units
3. Administrative Staff of State Department of Education
4. State Board of Education
5. Members of the Arkansas RCU Advisory Committee
6. Acquisition Specialist, ERIC Clearinghouse, The Center for Vocational and Technical Education, The Ohio State University.
7. American Vocational Association
8. Center for Studies in Vocational and Technical Education, The University of Wisconsin.
9. Other interested individuals and/or institutions upon request.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The Arkansas Research Coordinating Unit will continue to serve in its present capacity and location. An associate director of RCU has been employed to work cooperatively with the State Vocational Division's staff of Program Planning, Coordination, Evaluation, and Exemplary Programs. His major responsibility for the first year will involve implementation of an operational state-wide follow-up study of vocational education students. He will be located in the State Vocational Division Offices in Little Rock (See Appendix "A").

The Unit will provide consultative services in developing research proposals and will continue to coordinate and disseminate research information.

CERTIFICATION

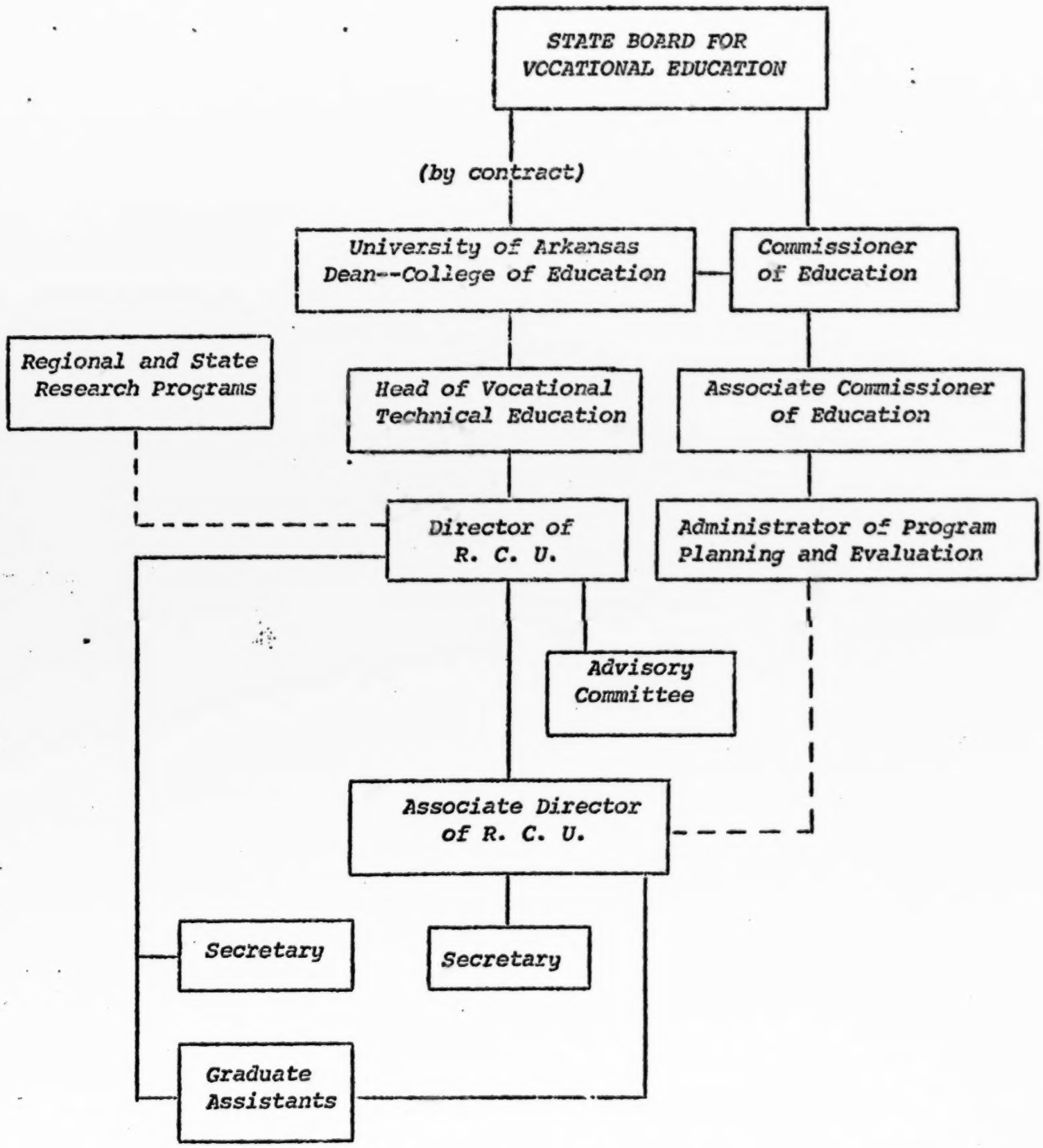
Darrel Way
Administrator of Finance
Division of Vocational
Technical & Adult Education
State Dept. of Ed.

September 18, 1969

Harold W. Moore
Project Director

September 18, 1969

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
ARKANSAS RESEARCH COORDINATION UNIT
FOR OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION



APPENDIX B

STAFF SUMMARY

Name	Title or Function	Period Employed	% of Time
Dr. John A. Rolloff	Director, RCU	Jan. 1, 1967- June 30, 1969	100%
Dr. Denver Hutson	Acting Director, RCU	June 24, 1966- Dec. 31, 1966	100%
Dr. Robert Norton	Associate Director, RCU	Sept. 1, 1967- Dec. 31, 1967	
Dr. William Arnwine	Associate Director, RCU	July 1, 1968- August 31, 1968	
Dr. Harold Moore	Associate Director, RCU	Sept. 1, 1968- August 31, 1969	100%
Mr. John Adams	Research Technician	Feb. 1, 1967- July 15, 1967	
Mr. T. Earl Banister	Research Technician	March 1, 1967-	
Mr. Jack Nichols	Research Technician	July 15, 1967- June 30, 1969	
Mrs. Louise McCormick	Research Technician	Sept. 1, 1968- August 31, 1969	
Mr. Robert Cox	Research Assistant	Sept. 1, 1968- July 1, 1969	
Miss Beverly Holcomb	Research Assistant	Sept. 1, 1968- June 30, 1969	
Mr. E. W. Thornton	Research Assistant	July 15, 1969- August 31, 1969	

Mr. William Robinson	Research Assistant	August 1, 1969- August 31, 1969	
Dr. William Arnwine	Consultant		
Mr. Donald Phillips	Consultant		
Mr. David Price	Consultant		
Mrs. Katie Keys	Secretary	Dec. 1, 1966- Sept. 1, 1967	100%
Mrs. Linda Byler	Secretary	Sept. 1, 1967- Aug. 19, 1968	100%
Mrs. Mildred Higgins	Secretary	August 19, 1968- June 2, 1969	100%
Miss Rebecca Thrasher	Secretary	June 2, 1969- August 31, 1969	100%
Mrs. Marcia Elizandro	Secretary	June 19, 1969- August 31, 1969	50%

APPENDIX C

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Assisted in the establishment of a full-time departmental position for Vocational Education research at the University of Arkansas.

Monitored and endorsed a USOE project proposal by Dr. James Scanlon involving a programmed media approach in teaching selected areas of farm mechanics.

Stimulated, monitored, and refined a small grant proposal by Metropolitan Vocational High School, Little Rock, entitled "Development of Instructional Packets Designed to Improve Communicative Skills of Vocational Students in the 10th Grade."

Stimulated renewed activities relevant to the development of a taxonomy of occupational objectives for vocational agriculture students at the secondary school level.

Provided consultative assistance to the Arkansas Industrial Research and Extension Center in their development of a "one-time" sampling instrument for a follow-up of students completing programs at the 13th and 14th year area Vocational Schools.

Coordinated and provided liaison between the field evaluator, prime contractor (N. C. Center) and the Department of Vocational Education, University of Arkansas under the sub-contract for the Evaluation of Concerted Services in Training and Education for the Arkansas counties of St. Francis, Lee, and Cross.

Continued the development of an RCU occupational education library.

Stimulated and assisted in the arrangements for a multi-state education research conference at the University of Arkansas with the cooperation of the Dallas Regional office.

Provided technical assistance to personnel of the Jonesboro Public School System and the State Department of Education, Home Economics Section in Developing a potential proposal to train teachers aids in Secondary Schools for child day care centers.

Stimulated and assisted in structuring a plan of action to develop an inter-related vocational program at the secondary level for Lee County, centering on Marianna.

Provided assistance to personnel of Greene County Technical school regarding potential funding proposal and operation of the plant and animal science laboratory.

Counseled with all vocational teachers of Fayetteville High School regarding the structuring of an inter-related vocational curriculum and concomitant research activities.

Assisted with the planning meeting of the Distributive Education Advisory Committee which was conducted in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Participated in the planning committee meeting relative to "Agency Analysis by Oregon State System of Higher Education," State Vocational Education Division, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Provided consultative assistance to State Distributive Education Adult Educators regarding adult education manuals.

Participated in a conference and assisted with the development of MDTA and Mobile proposals.

Representation of the Unit and Arkansas at the National Conference regarding vocational education research, Oklahoma city. RCU sent: Frank Adelman, Supervisor, Industrial Education, State Department of Education and Dr. Marion E. Maddox, Teacher Educator, Industrial Education, University of Arkansas.

Participated in a steering committee on Analysis of State Department of Vocational Education and a research meeting on Self-Analysis of State Department of Vocational Education.

Collecting, reproducing, and assembling various materials for use by the Unit and for state-wide dissemination.

Presentation of a program to vocational-technical personnel and school administrators at the Graduate Extension Center in Little Rock relative to evaluation, research and the role and function of the Research Coordination Unit in Arkansas.

Preparation of a brochure relative to the roles, functions and goals of the Arkansas Research Coordination Unit.

Preparation of a newsletter for distribution to educators in the State of Arkansas.

Visits were made to high schools and colleges throughout the state including: Little Rock, Fayetteville, Harrison, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Walnut Ridge, Paragould, Blytheville, Stuttgart, DeWitt, Dumas, McGehee, Dermott, Lake Village, Hamburg, Monticello, Ozark, Morrilton, Forrest City, Searcy, Pine Bluff, Burdette, Marked Tree, and Harrison; Harding College, State College of Arkansas, Phillips County Community College, Arkansas A & M and Arkansas Polytechnic College.

Scheduling and supervising the "Orientation to RCU" presentation to interested groups within the state. A research technician presented the presentation to seven vocational-technical schools in the state.

Participated in the Spring Conference on "Manpower Research," conducted by the Southwide Research Coordinating Council in Occupational Education at Houston, Texas.

Collection, reproduction, and compilation of various materials for use by the Unit for state-wide dissemination.

Provided consultative assistance to Metropolitan High School and Little Rock Vocational School.

Cooperated with Morris B. Ullman, Chief, Adult and Vocational Surveys Branch, National Center for Education Statistics, U. S. Office of Education, in obtaining information from selected Arkansas Teachers for a survey of the characteristics of Vocational Education Teachers and Students.

Participant and member of committee on, "Specialist for Superintendent Oral Examination," Graduate Education, University of Arkansas.

Participant in the "National Invitational Conference on Child Socialization," Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by one of the research technicians.

Attended Ad Hoc Committee, Southwide Research Coordination Council, Atlanta, Georgia.

Participant in AERA meeting, Los Angeles, California.

Attended and participated as contest judge in DECA Leadership Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Attended National Conference on Research, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Participated in National RCU Director's Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Participated in the Multiple Institute Planning Meeting, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CSTE (Concerted Services and Training in Education) in Washington, D. C.; Raleigh, North Carolina and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RCC (Southwide Research Coordinating Council) in Montgomery, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia.

AVA (American Vocational Association) in Cleveland, Ohio.

AERA (American Educational Research Association) in Chicago, Illinois.

National RCU Directors Conference at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Development of small grant proposals, DAVE Regional Office, Dallas, Texas.

Southern Regional Vocational Agriculture Conference at Clearwater, Florida.

Conference on Vocational Research for Correctional Institutions at Memphis, Tennessee and the Wisconsin Center for Vocational-Technical Education, at Madison, Wisconsin.

State involvement in field trial programs of the Ohio Center for Vocational and Technical Education at Columbus, Ohio.

Conference on "The Rural to Urban Shift-A National Problem," at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Sent Drs. Maddox, Norton, and Mr. Adelman to National Conference regarding vocational education research, Oklahoma City, February 17-20, 1969.

Sent Miss Beverly Holcomb to National Invitational Conference on Child Socialization, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 19-23, 1968.

Arkansas Educators Conference and visit IREC concerning follow-up project, August 14, 1968.

Regional Conference, "Man, Education, and Work," Dallas, Texas, September, 1968.

National Conference on Evaluation of Vocational and Technical Education Programs, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 6-9, 1968.

Little Rock, Research Presentation to State Department of Education Vocational Educators Concerted Services Evaluation Project Conference, Alburquerque, New Mexico, October 15-18, 1968.

PPBS Institute at Vocational-Technical Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 21-November 4, 1968.

AVA Convention, Dallas, Texas, December 7-13, 1968.

AERA meeting, Los Angeles, California, February 4-8, 1968.

National Conference on Research, Oklahoma City, February 17-19, 1969.

National RCU Director's Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 24-28, 1969.

Participated in the National Conference on Diffusion of Education Ideas, Michigan State University.

Participated in USOE Institute on Manpower Information at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

Explained the ERIC system and this Unit's system for retrieval and dissemination of vocational and technical information to a broad segment of professional personnel in occupational education.

Prepared supplement entitled "Brief Outline and Check List for Proposals Transmitted to the U. S. Office of Education," for fall dissemination in the newsletter Arkansas RCU Focal Points.

Commenced with the acquisition, compilation, and dissemination of vocational and technical research regarding correctional institutions in the United States.

Circularized USOE Summer Training Programs and follow-up selected individuals urging their participation.

Cataloged and disseminated current occupational information to those individuals known to possess an interest in a specific area as a stimulant for interest.

Secured and disseminated individual requests for vocational and technical materials, programs and related information. A particularly large number of acquisitions were secured relative to the development of programs to train teacher aids in secondary schools for child day care centers.

Commenced the development of a policy and procedure manual for use by the Unit and to assist other departments in the development of such a publication.

Finalizing the annotated bibliography on Correctional Education for reproduction and dissemination.

Dissemination of AIM and ARM brochures to selective user groups in Arkansas.

Explained the ERIC system and this Unit's system for retrieval and dissemination of vocational and technical information to a broad segment of professional personnel in occupational education.